(c) to what extent the power shortage will be improved as a result thereof and what are the projects to be undertaken for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Central Electricity Authority's Perspective Transmission Plan upto the year 1990-2000 A.D., on a Regional as well as All-India basis, brings out the broad trends in which the transmission system is likely to emerge subject to certain load and generation scenaries. The total requirement of funds has been assessed at about Rs. 32,000 crores during the Eighth Plan and about Rs. 36,000 crores during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) Construction of Extra High Voltage transmission lines, alongwith the corresponding sub-transmission and distribution networks, as envisaged in CEA's perspective plan, would facilitate the optimum utilisation of the Power resources in the country.

Technological changes in refineries to reduce lead content in petrol

578. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to launch a massive programme to bring about necessary technological changes in the refineries so as to reduce drastically the lead content in the motor spirit, petrol to check pollution from vehicle exhaust;

(b) whether Government are also planning to equip all the refineries with the necessary catalytic reforming facilities;

(c) whether this would enable in bringing down the lead level to 0.15 gms. against the existing specification of Bureau of Indian Standards which permit a maximum of 0.56 gms. of lead per litre of motor spirit; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) The Government have decided that effective September 1992, the maximum allowable lead content limit in Motor spirit would be reduced to 0.15 gms of lead per litre from the present specifications of Bureau of Indian Standards which permits a maximum of 0.56 gms per litre.

To enable the refineries to produce the low lead motor spirit and also to meet the country's motor spirit requirement in future years, some additional facilities are proposed to be installed which include the installation of Catalytic Reformers at Barauni, Digboi and Karnal refineries.

Increase in oil production during the Eighth plan period

579. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has conveyed to the Finance Minister that it will be able to produce more oil during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, what is the estimated production of oil that has been considered by the ONGC;

(c) whether as per the latest information made available by the ONGC, oil production will exceed the Plan target; and

(d) if so, whether Government have agreed to provide funds to meet this target of oil production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the preliminary exercise, ONGC is considering a production of 42-43 million tonnes of oil per year by the end of 8th Plan (1994-95).